Name: ­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Lowest Animal” Reading Guide**

**Directions:** Read the satirical story “The Lowest Animal” by Mark Twain carefully. Then answer each question in a complete sentence.

**Short Answer: 2 points each**

1. What two groups has Mark Twain been comparing?
2. Based on the first paragraph, what point do you think Mark Twain will try to prove in his essay?
3. What are the three generalizations Twain established as a result of his experiments?
4. How does Twain compare an earl to an anaconda? In other words, in what ways are they alike and different?
5. How does Twain compare accumulation of wealth in the human world with the accumulation of wealth in the animal world?
6. According to Twain, what “passion” is known to man but not to animals?
7. Why does Twain say it is all right for roosters to keep harems but not for men?
8. Because animals do not have anything to hide or be ashamed of, what physical response is made by man only?
9. What do we learn was Twain’s inspiration to write the article?
10. Twain claims that “of all the animals, man is the only one that is cruel” (460). List three of the examples of cruelty Twain uses to support this claim.
11. According to Twain, what is the “atrocity of atrocities”?
12. According to Twain, man is the only animal that “robs his helpless fellow of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
13. Based on Twain’s paragraph of man’s use of religion, how do you think Twain feels about religion as a whole?
14. Even though man is typically thought of as the “Reasoning Animal,” does Twain’s essay support this claim? Explain.
15. Describe in several sentences what happened in Twain’s final experiment. Who were the subjects and what was the result.

**Discussion Questions: 4 points each**

1. Pick at least one example of exaggeration and one example of irony that Twain uses in his essay and write down the sentence.
2. What are the targets of this satire? What is Twain angry about?
3. Explain why you think “The Lowest Animal” is or isn’t (a) convincing and (b) funny.
4. If Twain were alive today, what people, events, and institutions do you think he would satirize?